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7217/65965

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Yasuyoshi KUWAZOE et al.  
Serial No.: 09/988,957  
Filed: November 19, 2001  
For: DECODING APPARATUS, DECODING METHOD, DATA-  
RECEIVING APPARATUS AND DATA-RECEIVING METHOD  
Group A.U.: 2184

RECEIVED

APR 02 2002

Technology Center 2100

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with  
the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to :  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

JAY H. MAIOLI  
Reg. No. 27,213

Date 03-07-02

March 7, 2002  
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New York, NY 10036  
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified  
application, Applicants respectfully request that the  
application be amended as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure by rewriting  
same to read as follows:

--A decoding apparatus, decoding method, data-receiving  
apparatus, and a data-receiving method for performing a  
maximum-likelihood decoding process based on a Viterbi

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